

NEWS RELEASE

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Danville Man Sentenced to 6 ½ Years In Prison For Counterfeiting U.S. Currency

Urbana, Illinois— Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that Steven E. Acree Jr., age 24, was sentenced yesterday, January 24, 2007, to 78 months in prison for one count of counterfeiting United States currency, one count of conspiracy to counterfeit and pass United States currency, and two counts of passing United States currency. Acree has been in custody since January 19, 2007, when he was arrested for violating the conditions of his bond. Chief U.S. District Judge Michael P. McCuskey also ordered that Acree pay restitution of \$150 to the victims of his counterfeiting and serve three years supervised release following his release from prison. Acree had previously resided in Danville, Illinois.

According to court records, Acree admitted that he and co-conspirator, Billy J. Loden, used a color copier/printer to counterfeit over \$2000 in U.S. currency, consisting of \$50 and \$20 bills. Before they were caught, Acree gave counterfeit bills to a minor, who successfully passed \$70 of counterfeit currency in Danville; Loden successfully passed \$80 of counterfeit currency in Danville. Acree admitted using the minor because he believed the minor could better avoid criminal penalties. Acree had prior convictions in Vermilion County, Illinois for theft, burglary, domestic battery, and forgery. Loden pleaded guilty to conspiracy to pass counterfeit U.S. currency and passing counterfeit U.S. currency on October 24, 2006, and is scheduled for sentencing before Judge McCuskey in Urbana on February 9, 2007.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service and the Danville Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Eugene L. Miller in the Urbana Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office.

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